

# ABSTRACT

The multi-layer piezoelectric element comprises a stack having an active portion constituted from at least one  
5 piezoelectric layer and a plurality of internal electrodes consisting of first and second internal electrodes placed one on another, the active portion being subjected to expansion and contraction in response to a voltage applied across the first internal electrode and the second internal electrode,  
10 and external electrodes formed on two side faces of the stack with one thereof being connected to the first internal electrode and the other connected to the second internal electrode, wherein each of the external electrodes is constituted from three or more layers including a first layer  
15 formed in contact with the side face of the stack and a second layer formed on the first layer, to provide a multi-layer piezoelectric element having high durability.